

REMARKS

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is filed herewith. Consideration of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 13-17 were pending. Claim 13 has been amended and claims 18-20 have been added.

Claims 13 and 16-17 were rejected as anticipated by JOHNSEN 5,211,247 and claims 13-17 were rejected as anticipated by MCGEE 3,058,243. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested because the references do not disclose the ratio now claimed in amended claim 13 and in new claims 18-20.

The Examiner's comments regarding the Declarations were most helpful and the claims have been amended bearing in mind these comments. Amended claim 13 provides that a ratio of a first distance between the forward end and the rear end of the drawbar to a second distance between the bottom portion of the carrier and the knife edge is not less than twelve. Support for this found on page 12, lines 18-24 and page 13, lines 10-17. As was suggested in the Declarations, this feature of the invention makes fine control of the elevation of the knife blade possible. As explained in the just-cited parts specification and as stated in amended claim 13, when the forward end of the drawbar moves vertically a third distance the knife edge moves in a same vertical direction a fourth distance that is the third distance

times an inverse of the ratio. This fine control of knife edge movement is not disclosed or suggested in the applied art.

The references do not disclose or suggest the ratio claimed and do not offer motivation to make the (second) distance between the bottom portion of the carrier and the knife edge this much smaller than the (first) distance between the front and rear ends of the drawbar. Indeed, there is no suggestion in the references that this ratio is a result effective variable and one of skill in the art would not be motivated to vary the ratio because there is no indication that doing so would offer a positive result.

New claims 18-20 are allowable for the same reasons.

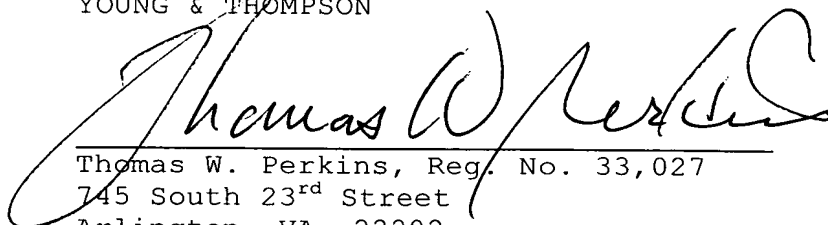
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Thomas W. Perkins". The signature is written over a horizontal line that separates it from the printed contact information below.

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